



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/964,590	09/28/2001	Abdulahi Mohamed	50035-1	2392
51590	7590	08/09/2006	EXAMINER	
NEXUS LAW GROUP LLP 1500 - 701 WEST GEORGIA STREET VANCOUVER, BC V74-1C6 CANADA			LU, SHIRLEY	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2612	

DATE MAILED: 08/09/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/964,590

Applicant(s)

MOHAMED, ABDULAH

Examiner

Shirley Lu

Art Unit

2612

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 May 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) none is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) none is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

- a. Applicant argues that Wagner does not specifically disclose 'a device having two processing devices.'

Wagner discloses a first processing device for providing display information to said display screen in said first housing (processor and inside panel circuitry, together, "process" in order to display on the inside of door); a second processing device for providing display information to said display screen in said second housing (processor and outside panel circuitry, together, "process" in order to display on the outside of door).

In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., 'a device having two microprocessors') are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

- b. Applicant argues that 'there is no suggestion in Wagner of wireless communication between the switch assembly and indicator assembly, no is there a suggestion of the desirability of wireless communicate on.'

Art Unit: 2612

It is noted that Wagner was not relied upon for the teaching or suggestion of wireless communication. Instead, Morris, was relied upon for this feature ([1, 59-60]). Rationale for combination is seen in a previous Action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

1. Claim(s) 1-5, 7, 10 is/are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Wagner (6236303).

As to claim 1, Wagner discloses:

A device for displaying multiple pre-programmed messages (figs. 4, 5), comprising:

a) a first housing adapted to be mounted in a first location (fig. 1, el. 10; housing not shown in its entirety; col. 3, lines 34-52);

Art Unit: 2612

b) a first electronic display screen mounted in said first housing (LCD display; col. 6, lines 4-15);

c) a second housing adapted to be mounted in a second location (fig. 2, el. 30; mountable housing; col. 4, lines 4-13);

d) a second electronic display screen mounted in said second housing (LCD display; col. 6, lines 4-15);

e) a first processing device for providing display information to said display screen in said first housing (col. 5, lines 20-55; fig. 5, el. 52);

f) a second processing device for providing display information to said display screen in said second housing (col. 5, lines 20-55; fig. 5, el. 52);

e) a power source in one of said first or second housings for supplying electric power to said display screens and said first and second processing devices (battery 50; col. 4, lines 13-16);

f) means for selecting a message to be displayed on said first and second displays (fig. 3, el. 10; col. 3, line 53 to col. 4, line 3); and

g) means for conducting electric signals between said first and second processing devices (indicating assembly 30 electrically connected to switching assembly 10; col. 4, lines 17-44).

As to claim 2,

Art Unit: 2612

said first and second display screens each comprises an LCD display (LCD display; col. 6, lines 4-15).

As to claim 3,

said first and second housings are adapted to be secured to opposite sides of a door (hotel room doors; col. 6, lines 15-25).

As to claim 4,

further comprising switching means for selectively displaying a message on said first and second display screens (choose between messages; fig. 3, el. 10; col. 3, line 53 to col. 4, line 3).

As to claim 5,

said means for conducting electric signals between said first and second processing devices extends through said door (col. 6, lines 15-26; since the housings are mounted on the doors themselves, the connection would go through the door).

As to claim 7,

said processor means has a preprogrammed selection of messages adapted to be displayed electronically simultaneously on said first and second display screens (guests can tell the state of the system; fig. 3, 4 col. 4, lines 45-53).

As to claim 10,

one of said housings is provided with an audio speaker (audio; col. 6, lines 4-15).

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claim(s) 8, 9 is/are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wagner (6236303).

As to claim 8,

Wagner discloses: a power source comprising a battery (battery 50; col. 4, lines 13-16).

Wagner is silent as to the specific location of the battery.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Wagner's system to teach said power source comprises a battery mounted on one of said housings, based on the system's diction of the environment and design.

As to claim 9,

Wagner discloses: a motion sensor (motion sensor; col. 5, lines 20-55).

Wagner is silent as to the specific location of the motion sensor.

Art Unit: 2612

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Wagner's system to teach one of said housings is provided with a motion sensor, based on the system's diction of the environment and design.

3. Claim(s) 6, 14 is/are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wagner (6236303) in view of Bodell (5953842).

As to claims 6 and 14,

Wagner discloses said first and second housings are removably secured to said opposite sides of said door by screws (col. 3, lines 34-52).

Wagner fails to specifically teach tamper-resistant screws.

In an analogous art, Bodell discloses tamper-resistant screws for a sign (col. 3, line 54 to col. 4, line 2).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Wagner's system to teach said first and second housings are removably secured to said opposite sides of said door by screws, as taught by Bodell, so as to protect the sign from vandalism (col. 1, lines 1-8).

4. Claim(s) 11, 12 is/are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wagner (6236303) in view of Morris (6768424).

Art Unit: 2612

As to claims 11 and 12,

Wagner fails to specifically teach said first and second processing devices are adapted to communicate wirelessly by audio and radio frequency.

Morris discloses a wireless communication between two devices using audio or radio frequency (col. 1, lines 57-60).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Wagner's system to teach said first and second processing devices are adapted to communicate wirelessly by audio frequency, as taught by Morris, so as to allow two remotely located devices to communicate wirelessly.

5. Claim(s) 13 is/are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wagner (6236303) in view of Shimizu (5998925).

As to claim 13,

Wagner discloses:

That a wide variety of devices could be used as indicators in addition to or in place of lights (col. 6, lines 4-15).

Wagner fails to specifically teach said first and second display screens each comprises an LED display.

In an analogous art, Shimizu discloses a system utilizing LEDs (fig. 1, col. 8, lines 31-40).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Wagner's system to teach utilizing an LED display, as taught by Shimizu, so as to utilize light which is compact, clear color with high efficiency, and free from trouble such as burn-out.

6. Claim(s) 15 is/are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wagner (6236303) in view of Burns (4852284).

As to claim 15,

Wagner fails to specifically teach said first and second housings are removably secured by suction cups.

In an analogous art, Faggiano discloses a mounting a sign with suction cups (col. 1, lines 26-45).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Wagner's system to teach said first and second housings are removably secured by suction cups, as

taught by Faggiano, so as to allow a sign to be attached to glass without visual obstruction.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

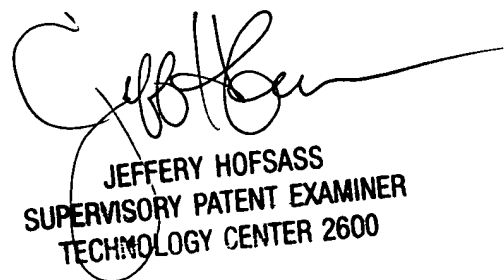
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shirley Lu whose telephone number is (571) 272-8546. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5:00 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeff Hofsass can be reached on (571) 272-2981. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Art Unit: 2612

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

SL



JEFFERY HOFSSASS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600